
Media Release



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**NATIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT FORUM HIGHLIGHTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers, Caltrans Director Will Kempton
Take Part In SCAG's 40th Anniversary Celebration**

LOS ANGELES, CALIF – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) celebrated its 40th Anniversary with more than 250 current and former local elected officials attending its Annual General Assembly at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Participants reflected upon the agency's accomplishments and focused on future critical issues involving Southern California's transportation and goods movement network. The two-day General Assembly involved a host of speakers and panels, including Caltrans Director Will Kempton and former Clinton White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

"SCAG has much to be proud of looking back on its 40 years of accomplishments," said outgoing SCAG President and Temecula Vice Mayor Ron Roberts. "It is imperative that we stay focused and remain united in addressing and planning for the many challenges our region will face in the future."

The first day's events started with an unprecedented program – "Finding the Good In Goods Movement: Insights and Strategies From U.S. Gateways" – in which local leaders, railroad officials, major shippers and officials representing Southern California, the Bay Area, Tacoma, New Jersey, Chicago and Houston came together to discuss the impact escalating trade has on their communities.

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They discussed the growing demands on port facilities and the related infrastructure improvements that will be needed to meet future demands. They also discussed the importance of developing innovative public-private partnerships to finance needed improvements, as well as the need to balance such improvements with addressing air quality, traffic congestion and other related community impacts associated with port activity.

At the Gala Dinner celebration Wednesday evening, hundreds of current and former SCAG Board members were treated to an evening of nostalgia and reflection on SCAG's major contributions to Southern California. Among other noteworthy initiatives, SCAG's work was instrumental in the development of the Alameda Corridor freight rail project; the Metrolink commuter rail system; the development of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and carpooling; and the formation of Heal The Bay and the Salton Sea Authority. Political commentator and former Clinton White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers concluded the evening's events with remarks reflecting her perspective on her experiences in both Southern California and national politics.

The Gala Celebration was also marked by presentation of SCAG's first-ever Regional Champion Awards, recognizing leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the Southern California regional community. Real estate developer Randall Lewis was recognized for his accomplishments for employing sound housing and land use practices. Dr. Kay Martin received an award for her noteworthy efforts to foster bioremediation technologies. KTTV-TV news correspondent Tony Valdez received an award for outstanding regional media coverage.

The second day was marked by a changing of the SCAG leadership team. Outgoing president Ron Roberts was replaced by the newly elected Toni Young, councilwoman from Port Hueneme. Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke was elected to serve as SCAG's first vice president, and San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt was elected to serve as second vice president.

The SCAG Regional Council also heard remarks by Caltrans Director Will Kempton, who addressed the board about a variety of issues involving Caltrans' future direction, including the Governor's "Go California" package of legislative priorities. Kempton stressed the importance of promoting public-private partnerships as a means of bringing in additional revenues for transportation improvements. He also commended SCAG for its leadership in working with the state to develop a new goods movement action plan.